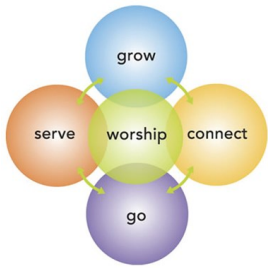


The Parish of
STONY STRATFORD
 with
CALVERTON



THE PARISH NEWSLETTER
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
SUNDAY 1st May AD 2016



Welcome to the Parish Church where, after the example of the early church, we celebrate the Eucharist: the "apostles teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42)

In the first reading at today's Mass, we are given the story of the first General Council ever held by the Church authorities. We hear that a vital decision was reached through the guidance and assistance of the Holy Spirit. "It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and ours" (Acts 15:28) was how the Apostles and Elders announced the conclusion they had reached.

In this Gospel reading Christ promised his Apostles, the night before his death, that when he returned to the Father, the Holy Spirit would be sent to them. He would teach them all things and recall to their minds all that Christ had taught them. In other words, the Church, through the Apostles, was promised the direct assistance of the Holy Spirit in preserving and interpreting what we call "the deposit of faith" or the sum total of the divine revelation given to us for our sanctification.

That promise was fulfilled in a very solemn way within twenty years of our Lord's resurrection at the Council of Jerusalem. It has been fulfilled again and again down through the history of the Church, as The Church met in the General Councils, and on many less solemn occasions. Bishop Jonathan's presence with us this morning is a vital sign of the real link, the Apostolic Succession, between the first Apostles and their current successors: the Bishops who hand on "the faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

The Holy Spirit "breathes where he wills." He assists the local Church, gathered around its Bishop. He inspires individual Christians if they call on him in their need. He inspires young people to offer their lives to the service of the Church and their neighbour. He inspired founders of orders and congregations to form institutes which would help the spread of the faith. He is at work today among us and among all the children of the Church, helping and inspiring us all towards that unity for which Christ prayed.

There are moments of crisis in all our lives, moments when a vital decision has to be made. If that decision is wrongly made it may not only seriously interfere with our earthly welfare, but more important still jeopardise our eternal salvation. We should call on the Holy Spirit to help us daily, but we should call for his assistance especially when we have a serious decision to make.

The Holy Spirit's role in the Church and in the lives of all Christians is to preserve and protect the revelation that God has given us. There are times in the lives of many of us when we are tempted to doubt about what we are called on to believe, or to hesitate with regard to what we are called on to do. It is on such occasions that the help of the Holy Spirit is especially necessary. He will not fail us if we turn to him earnestly and sincerely.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

- TODAY:**
 9:30am **THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
 6:00pm **PARISH MASS**
 Evensong at All Saints
 Pray for: Our Parish
- Monday:**
 9:30am **St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor**
 8:00pm **Rogation Day**
 'Squeals on Wheels' in Parish Hall
 Pray for: Bell Ringing Practice
 The Sick, Housebound & Handicapped
- Tuesday:**
 10:30am **Ss Philip & James, Apostles**
 7:30pm **Rogation Day**
 Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'
 Pray for: All those who work in agriculture
- Wednesday: The English Martyrs**
 6:00pm **Rogation Day**
 6:30pm Rector in the Parish Office
 7:15pm Handbell Ringing Practice at SMSG School
 The Band - Practice at SMSG School
 7:30pm **Mass at St Mary & St Giles**
 Pray for: That all people may equitably enjoy the fruits of the earth
- Thursday: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD**
 10:30am **Mass at All Saints + 'Elevenses'**
 7:30pm **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
 Pray for: Followed by a 'Bring & Share Supper
 Commitment to Christ our King
- Friday: Feria**
 8:00am **Mass at St Mary & St Giles School**
 7:30pm Parish Singers Rehearsal
 Pray for: The recently bereaved
- Saturday: Feria**
 4:00pm Confessions in St Mary & St Giles
 4:30pm Evening Prayer in St Mary & St Giles
 Pray for: Visitors to our Parish Churches
- Next Sunday: THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**
 9:30am **PARISH MASS at St Mary & St Giles**
 11:00am **FAMILY MASS at All Saints**
 Pray for: Our Parish
- READINGS NEXT SUNDAY 7th Sunday of Easter**
 1st Reading: Acts 7: 55-60
 Psalm: 97 (part)
 2nd Reading: Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20
 Gospel: John 17: 20-26

- Readers: John Hickman & Keith Hindley
 Intercessor: Dai Evans
 Sidesmen: Team 1 Altar Servers: Team 1
 Offertory: Gary & Claire Stilton
 Cleaning: Team 1 Gardening: Team 1
- Worshipping Numbers last Sunday: 193
 Weekday Worshipping Numbers (w/e 23 Apr): 138

FUTURE DIARY DATES

Thursday 5th May **THE ASCENSION** **OF THE LORD**

10:30am Mass at All Saints followed by 'Elevenses'

7:30pm Parish Mass followed by a Bring & Share Supper at SMSG

Saturday 7th May

10:00am Coffee Morning at SMSG in aid of the Restoration Fund

Saturday 14th May

12:00noon Lunch to raise funds for the Flower Festival in the Parish Hall

Sunday 15th May **THE SOLEMNITY** **OF PENTECOST**

9:30am Parish Mass at SMSG
11:00am Family Mass at All Saints

Wednesday 18th May

2:00pm The Fellowship Quiz Afternoon in the Parish Hall

Thursday 19th May

12:30pm Lunchtime Concert at SMSG

7:30pm Parochial Church Council at All Saints

Saturday 21st May

7:30pm 'Polymnia' Concert at SMSG

Thursday 26th May

CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI
7:30pm Parish Mass at SMSG
Celebrant: Fr Victor Bullock SSC
Homilist: The Rector

Sunday 29th May

3:00pm Family Organ Recital at St Mary & St Giles

Thursday 2nd June

7:30pm Milton Keynes Deanery Synod

Saturday 5th June

5:00pm Violin & Cello Concert in St Mary & St Giles

Wednesday 8th June

4:00pm Handbells & Band Concert in SMSG Church

Friday 10th - Sunday 11th June

Flower Festival at St Mary & St Giles

Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May 2016: Please sign up for the door to door collection for Christian Aid 2016. This year's donations will help the poorest communities and flood victims in Bangladesh re-build housing on earth plinths above flood level and replace lost animals and seed. Thanks Richard Hearne
richardhearne@hotmail.co.uk Tel: 01908 560895

Sainsbury's 'Active Kids' Vouchers: If you shop regularly at Sainsbury's then please do collect the 'Active Kids' vouchers and hand them to Kieran or Lesley Salter as they will help our Church School obtain sports equipment. If the person in front of you in the queue declines them...please don't be shy in speaking up and saying that you know of a school that would appreciate them and asking if they mind letting you have them. *Thank you.*

Flower Festival at St Mary & St Giles to celebrate the HM Queen's 90th Birthday

As part of the whole country's celebration for HM Queen's 90th birthday we are planning to hold a Flower Festival on Friday 10th June to Sunday 12th June 2016. To enable this exciting event to take place we are requesting your help to act as Stewards throughout the weekend, to serve and make refreshments and donate funds!!! We are estimating this could cost as much as £1,200.00. This could be either by donations, sponsorship of an arrangement and/or attending a fund raising lunch on Saturday 14th May. If you would like to make a donation please address the envelope 'Flower Festival'.

Please put these important dates in you diary and see Sue Starr or Lesley Corcoran if you are able to help with this event in anyway. Many thanks in anticipation.

STOP PRESS: Tickets for the fund raising lunch for the Flower Festival on Saturday 14th May will be £6. Tickets are available from Jill Eales

Memorial Registers: The Rector will be updating the registers in both our Parish Churches at the beginning of May. If you wish names of deceased loved ones to be added to those already included please fill in one of the forms available in both churches and then pass to the Rector by the end of April. Donations in lieu of entries will be added to the Restoration Fund of the church to which Register entry pertains.

Weekly Envelope Boxes and Gift Aid: The new envelope boxes are now available soon for you to take home. If you no longer require a box, or want a box then get in touch with Clive please.

If you are a taxpayer, SMSG can claim on your behalf, and at no additional cost to you, gift aid tax - which adds an extra 25p to our funds for every pound you donate. Last year SMSG was able to claim over £11,000 Gift Aid Tax. For SMSG to claim tax on your behalf you have to complete a Gift Aid Declaration. All contributions are highly confidential and treated as such. Please get in touch with Clive for more information on 07713 164110 or emailing clive.williams@rectanglered.com.

PARISH NEWS AND NOTICES

Our Church School - News: The Local Authority has asked our school if we are prepared to merge with Queen Eleanor primary School and run St. Mary & St. Giles School on both sites. This is potentially the biggest change in our school for many years and the Governing Body has agreed for this to go forward for consultation.

The consultation started on Monday and lasts for 6 weeks. MK Council is keen to hear from anyone who would like to read the consultation and complete the feedback form available at:

<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/369>

Why is the Authority proposing this change? Queen Eleanor Primary School is currently an improving school and St. Mary & St. Giles is judged to be outstanding by Ofsted. There is much to be proud of in both these schools and the Authority believes that it would strengthen local provision if they were brought under one leadership and management.

Kieran has stated that he is very excited by this proposal as he believes it to be in the best long-term interests of pupils and staff. SMSG will continue to work in partnership with Russell Street School. He would encourage every member of the parish to read the consultation document and respond to Milton Keynes Council. If you have any questions please talk to Fr. Ross, Kieran or any of the Governors.

Rector: Fr Ross Northing SSC - Tel: 01908 562148
Email: info@parishstonystratfordcalverton.com - Mobile: 07718 884779

Church Army Officer: Sister Janet Northing CA - Tel: 01908 562148
Email: jf.northing@btinternet.com

Parish Website: <http://parishstonystratfordcalverton.com>

Associate Minister: Fr Tunji Adebiyi
Tel: 01525 790954

Honorary Assistant Priest: Fr Joseph Loveday SSC
Tel: 01327 351511

Parish Hall Booking Secretary: Nicola Crompton 07979 653515